

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 158432

62

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH-CONTRACTED
SHIP (GOEL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF ATHENS 4890, WE SPOKE WITH SENIOR
OFFICIALS OF (A) THE DORCHESTER COMPANY OF DALLAS, TEXAS,
AND (B) THE GEOPHYSICAL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION COMPANY (GOEL)
OF AMARILLO, TEXAS, AND LEARNED THE FOLLOWING. ACCORDING
TO (A), DORCHESTER HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE TURKISH GOVERN-
MENT FOUR PERMITS TO DO SEISMIC WORK IN AREAS NEAR IZMIR,
ALL OF WHICH ARE ENTIRELY WITHIN TURKISH NATIONAL WATERS.
THEY ARE NOT REPEAT NOT IN THE AREA OF DISPUTE BETWEEN
GREECE AND TURKEY. THE GOEL I IS UNDER CONTRACT TO DOR-
CHESTER TO PERFORM THE WORK, BUT DORCHESTER HAS NO CONTRAC-
TUAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY, CON-
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PAGE 02 STATE 158432

TRARY TO STAVROPOULOS' UNDERSTANDING. DORCHESTER WOULD
BE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED IF SHIP HAD VIOLATED GREEK WATERS
AS COMPANY HAS PENDING AN APPLICATION WITH GOG FOR A PERMIT
TO DO EXPLORATION WORK IN IOANIAN SEA AND, THEREFORE, WOULD

NOT WISH HARM ITS POSITION WITH GREEKS THROUGH INCIDENT OF THIS KIND.

2. ACCORDING TO (B), GOEL I WAS OPERATING ON BEHALF OF DORCHESTER ON JULY 1 AND WAS SHOOTING LINES IN AN EAST-WEST DIRECTION NEAR LESVOS IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS.

GOEL OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT SHIP COULD HAVE ENTERED GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS IN MAKING TURN AFTER ONE OF ITS SHOOTINGS, BUT IT WAS DOUBTFUL SHIP WOULD HAVE REMAINED FOR 45 MINUTES IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS UNLESS IT HAD ENCOUNTERED EMERGENCY SITUATION INVOLVING BREAKDOWN OF ITS EQUIPMENT. HE PROMISED TO OBTAIN SHIP CAPTAIN'S VERSION OF INCIDENT AND REPORT BACK TO US. REGARDING PRESENCE OF TURKISH VESSEL, GOEL OFFICIAL INDICATED IT WAS NORMAL PRACTICE FOR SEISMIC SHIP TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER VESSEL TO WARN OFF FISHING CRAFT IN AREA OF SHOOTING.

3. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON LAINGEN JULY 3 AND PRESENTED FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

BEGIN TEXT. THE RESEARCH VESSEL M/V GOEL I, CANADIAN REGISTRY, OWNED BY GEOPHYSICAL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION (GOEL) HOUSTON, TEXAS, A DIVISION OF SEFEL J & ASSOCIATES LTD, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA, VIOLATED THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF GREECE SOUTH OF THE ISLAND OF LESVOS ON THE 1ST OF JULY 1975, WHILE ON A RESEARCH MISSION ON BEHALF OF DORCHESTER CORPORATION DALLAS, TEXAS.

WHILE IN THE GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS, M/V GOEL I WAS CLOSELY ACCOMPANIED BY A VESSEL FLYING THE TURKISH FLAG.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT:

A. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISK RESULTING FROM ACTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 158432

OF EXPLOITATION OF RESEARCH WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF AND WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, WILL BE BORNE BY THE COMPANY CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH OR THE EXPLOITATION.

B. THE ABOVE APPLIES NO MATTER WHETHER RESEARCH IS CARRIED OUT ON A COMPANY'S OWN BEHALF OR FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

C. THE CONDUCT OF ANY OTHER SIMPLE TEST OR RESEARCH, EVEN OF A PURELY SCIENTIFIC NATURE, BY ANY COMPANY, ON ANY PART OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF GREECE, SHOULD BE

PRECEDED BY A PERMISSION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE 5 PARAGRAPH 8, OF THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. END TEXT.

4. IN RESPONSE, LAINGEN GAVE ALEXANDRAKIS SUBSTANCE OF INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO AND INDICATED WE WOULD DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH HIM AS SOON AS WE HAD OBTAINED ADDITIONAL DATA, PROBABLY NOT UNTIL NEXT WEEK. LAINGEN ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST THAT INCIDENTS CONTRIBUTING TO TENSION IN AEGEAN BE AVOIDED AND THAT U.S. COMPANIES ARE AWARE OF THIS INTEREST.

5. FOR IZMIR: AS GOEL IS REPORTEDLY NOW IN IZMIR, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF CONSULATE GENERAL COULD OBTAIN REPORT FROM SHIP CAPTAIN ABOUT INCIDENT.

6. FOR ATHENS: YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE FOR RESPONDING TO STAVROPOULOS. SISCO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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